

Acoustic Report Guidelines for Extended Hours Liquor Primary Establishments

This guide describes the requirements for acoustic reports required for the operation of extended hour's liquor primary establishments within the City of Vancouver and subject to the provisions of the Licence Bylaw No. 4450 and the Noise Control Bylaw No 6555.

Prior to approval of an extended hour's liquor primary licence extension, the Chief Licence Inspector shall receive a certified acoustic report from the applicant. The acoustic report submitted by the applicant shall be prepared by persons trained in acoustics and current techniques of noise measurement and shall assess the establishment's capability to satisfy the provisions of the City of Vancouver Noise Control Bylaw. The provisions of the Noise Control Bylaw that pertain to commercial establishments are appended to this guide.

Written confirmation shall be provided by the applicant that the recommendations of the acoustical consultant, as approved by the Chief Licence Inspector, will be followed. The applicant shall also confirm that sound levels will be monitored and written records will be maintained by management of the liquor establishment to demonstrate adherence to the design source level.

A copy of the approved acoustic report shall be kept within the establishment at all times. All managers and sound technicians of the liquor establishment and hired entertainers shall be familiar with the contents of the report.

If the establishment operates at a continuous or non-continuous sound level above 90 dBA, a sign shall be posted in a prominent location at the entry to the premises that states, "CAUTION – THE SOUND LEVEL WITHIN THESE PREMISES MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEARING" Noise Control Bylaw, Section 3.1(c).

For information about occupational noise exposure, contact WorkSafeBC at 604-244-6181 or view the website, www.worksafebc.com.

Documentation in Support of Acoustic Report (provided by applicant)

Legal Description of Premises

- Business and Corporate Name, address and telephone & fax numbers, email address
- Civic address, telephone & fax numbers, email address
- Contact person(s)

Floor Plan of Premises

- A copy of the scale floor plan required for the current license.
- Location of stage area, dance floor and sound system components.

Site Plan

- List all residences and the distance from the premises within a one block radius.
- List all food service and liquor establishments within a one block radius.
- Map of area referencing listed residences and commercial establishments

Acoustic Report Requirements

Design Source Level

- Designation of liquor establishment per Noise Control Bylaw Subsection 3.1(a)(iv), Schedule F.
- Description of the entertainment format of the liquor establishment.
- Within the liquor establishment, a design source level (dBA/dBC) shall be established as the basis for the acoustical study. The location where the design source level is measured shall be described in the report and noted on the floor plan. This parameter shall be set in consultation with the operator of the premises and shall reflect actual levels of entertainment sound provided during operations.

Noise Reduction Test

- Demonstrate that the design and construction of the establishment is capable of ensuring that identified design source levels will comply with the noise or sound level requirements of the Noise Control By-law that apply to the liquor establishment with a reference objective of 65 dBC at the residential point of reception closest to the liquor establishment.
- The coordinates of all measurement locations shall be described in the report. As well, all measurement locations shall be designated on the site plan.

Recommendations & Verification

- Assess the design and construction of the liquor establishment as it pertains to transmission of sound or noise.
- Recommendations of acoustic consultant to mitigate noise and satisfy requirements of the Noise Control Bylaw.
- Description of plan for implementation of the acoustic consultant's recommendations.
- Verification of noise mitigation plan with sound level evidence provided.

Appendix A: Noise Control Bylaw No. 6555

"background noise" means noise the receiver would experience in the absence of the intruding noise, measured at the same point as the intruding noise for a period of three minutes

"point of reception" means:

(a) a point in a lane or street, adjacent to but outside of the property occupied by the recipient of the noise or sound, that represents the shortest distance between that property and the source of the noise;

(b) where no lane, street, or other public property exists between the recipient and the source, any point outside the property line of the real property from which the noise or sound emanates; or

(c) in the case of noise emanating from inside Rogers Arena, a point as defined in subsection (a) or (b) or a point immediately adjacent to and outside of any dwelling unit located within the site legally described as PID: 018-500-374, Lot 221, Plan LMP 12038

and in any case, at least 1.2 metres above the surface of the ground.

3.1 The following noises or sounds are prohibited, despite the fact that such noises or sounds may not constitute a violation of any other provision of this by-law, and a person must not make, cause or permit to be made or caused, any such noise or sound:

- (a) The bass noise or bass sound made by a radio, television, player or other sound playback device, public address system, or any other music or voice amplification equipment, musical instrument, whether recorded or live, whether amplified or not, in commercial premises, the level of which:
 - (i) during the daytime, exceeds a rating of 70 dBC on an approved sound meter for a period of three minutes at the point of reception,
 - (ii) during the nighttime, exceeds a rating of 65 dBC on an approved sound meter for a period of three minutes at the point of reception,
 - (iii) if residential premises are in the same building or share a party wall with the commercial premises, or if a wall of a residential premises and the wall of the commercial premises are flush against one another, exceeds a rating of 55 dBC on an approved sound meter for a period of three minutes in such residential premises at the centre of the living room or bedroom which is closest to the commercial premises in the same building or with which such residential premises shares a party wall or wall that is flush to a wall of the

commercial premises, or

- (iv) If the commercial premises are an extended hours liquor establishment;
 - (A) Located in any area outlined in black on Schedule F – Map 1 or Schedule F – Map 4, exceeds a rating of 80 dBC, or
 - (B) Located in any area outlined in black on Schedule F – Map 2, Schedule F – Map 3, Schedule F – Map 5, Schedule F – Map 6, or Schedule F – Map 7, exceeds a rating of 75 dBC,

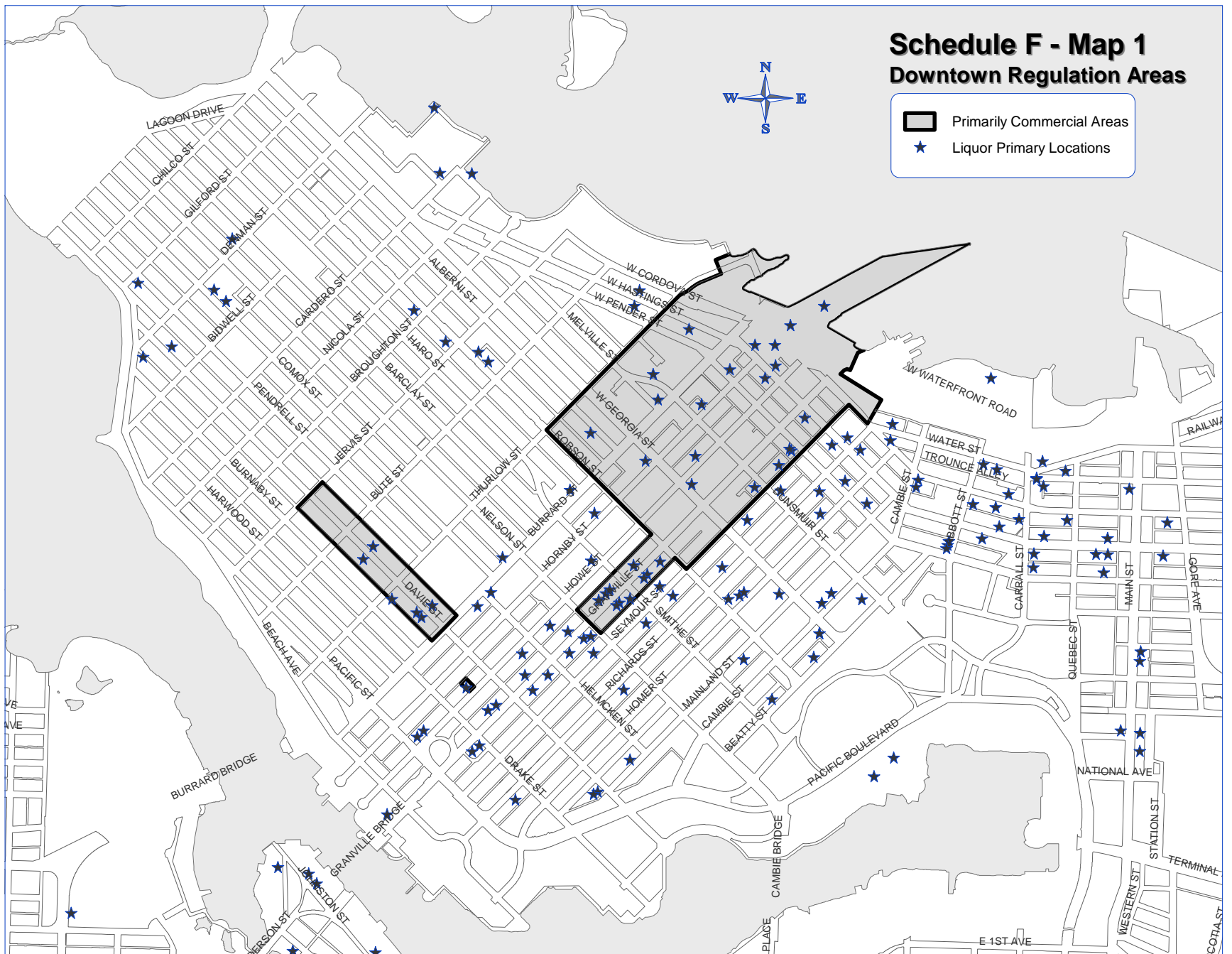
During extended hours, on an approved sound meter for a period of one minute at a distance of 3 m from an exterior wall of the building in which that liquor establishment is situate, and at least 1.2 m above the ground.

- (b) the noise or sound made by a radio, television, player or other sound playback device, public address system, or any other music or voice amplification equipment, musical instrument, whether recorded or live, whether amplified or not, in commercial premises the level of which:
 - (i) exceeds 3 dBA above the background noise on an approved sound meter when measured for a period of three minutes at the point of reception,
 - (ii) if residential premises are in the same building or share a party wall with the commercial premises, or if a wall of residential premises and the wall of the commercial premises are flush against one another:
 - (A) during the daytime, exceeds a rating of 50 dBA, or
 - (B) during the nighttime, exceeds a rating of 45 dBA,

on an approved sound meter for a period of three minutes, in such residential premises, at the centre of the living room or bedroom which is closest to the commercial premises in the same building or with which such residential premises shares a common wall or party wall or wall that is flush to a wall of the commercial premises, or

- (v) if the commercial premises are an extended hours liquor establishment, during extended hours, exceeds 3 dBA above the background noise on an approved sound meter for a period of one minutes at a distance of 3 m from an exterior wall of the building in which that liquor establishment is situated, and at least 1.2 m above the ground.

- (c) the noise or sound made by music, whether recorded or live, whether amplified or not, in commercial premises, the sound level of which exceeds an interior rating of 90 dBA on an approved sound meter when measured within the premises at a distance of not less than 6.1 m from the source, unless a notice containing the word "CAUTION" in bold face, followed by the words "THE SOUND LEVEL WITHIN THESE PREMISES MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEARING" in capital letters and the symbol shown on Schedule "D", is posted in a prominent location at the entry to the premises, and is constructed so that:
- (i) It is rectangular in shape,
 - (ii) It is at least 15 cm high and 30.5 cm wide,
 - (iii) The lettering for the word "CAUTION" is at least 2 cm high and in red and for the balance of the script is at least 1 cm high and in any colour which contrasts with the background, and
 - (iv) The symbol is at least 10 cm high;



- Primarily Mixed-Use Areas
- Liquor Primary Locations

